**Problems faced by LPG consumers**

† 3169. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas consumers are facing difficulties like refusal by gas agencies to book gas before 21 days, delivery of cylinder weighing less than the prescribed weight, non-refund of amount charged for home delivery even if the consumers takes the self-delivery of cylinder from the godown;

(b) if so, whether government have issued any guidelines to the gas agencies regarding the supply of gas cylinder to consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) There is no restriction on booking a refill within 21 days of previous supply of refill, with the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies. However, a gap of 21 days has to be maintained between supply of two refills. The LPG distributors are under instructions to check for correct weight before delivery of cylinders to the consumers and to give a rebate of Rs. 5 to cash and carry .consumers. In case any under weight cylinder reaches the customer, the under weight cylinder is replaced free of cost.

**Indo-Sudan Tie-up in oil sector**

3170. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sudan has expressed desire of India's collaboration in its oil sector; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to tie-up with Sudan for exploration,

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† Original notice of the question Was received in Hindi.

development and processing, keeping in view of vast oil reserve in Sudan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To explore the possibility of bilateral cooperation in Oil Sector with Sudan, a team of Oil Company Officials has visited Sudan. Sudan does not offer opportunities, which call for immediate attention. With regard to import of crude, Sudanese crude oil has not been found technically suitable for processing in the Indian PSU Refineries.

**LPG bottling plants**

3171. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG bottling plants set up in different parts of the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals for setting up of new LPG bottling plants in the current financial year, State-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the details of effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have set up 51 LPG bottling plants in the country during the last three years.

(b) and (c) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of techno economic feasibility after taking into consideration the damand potential of packed LPG. LPG bottling plants are located nearest to the consumption centres with a view to achieving maximum transportation economies. In order to meet the future packed LPG demand, plans have been drawn by Oil Industry to augment the LPG bottling capacity in the country from 5595 TMTPA as on 1.4.2001 to 8070 TMTPA by the end of 9th plan (2001-2002).